

**POISON
Help**
1-800-222-1222

Kentucky
POISON
Control Center
of Norton Children's Hospital

BIENNIAL REPORT | 2016-2017



KENTUCKY POISON CONTROL CENTER

THE KENTUCKY POISON CONTROL CENTER OF NORTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL is staffed by nurses, pharmacists and physicians specially trained in clinical toxicology. Our physicians are board certified in medical toxicology, and our nurses are nationally certified specialists in poison information.

One of the Kentucky Poison Control Center's important roles is to determine if a poisoning exposure requires referral to a health care facility. Of the exposure calls received, nine out of 10 can be managed without a visit to a hospital emergency room. This works out to an estimated savings of more than \$20 million each year.

(800) 222-1222

While there is no national poison control center, the poison help number is a nationwide number that connects anyone in the country to their local poison control center. Everyone who calls

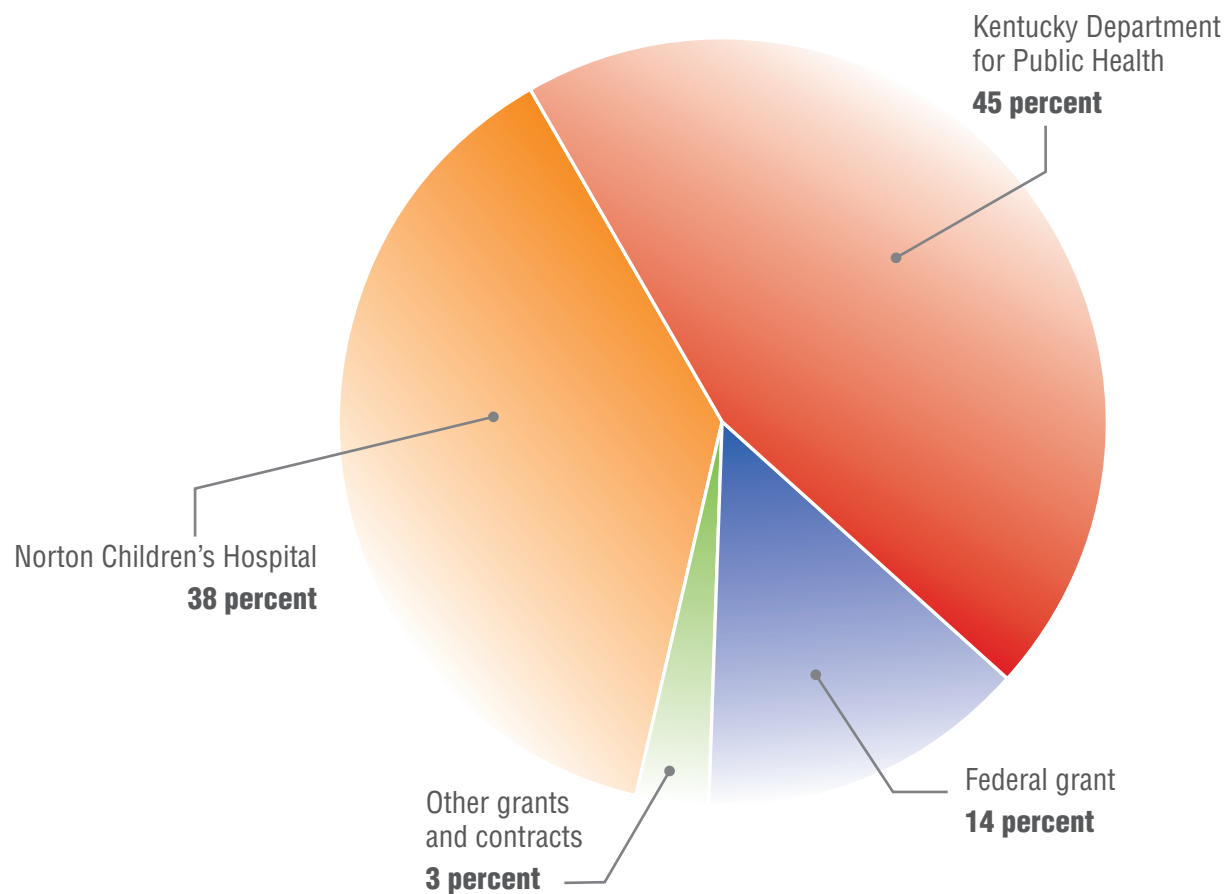
(800) 222-1222 from a Kentucky phone number will be directed to our center.



THE KENTUCKY POISON CONTROL CENTER serves all 120 counties in Kentucky. Our specially trained staff of nurses, physicians and pharmacists is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to answer questions and respond to emergencies involving possible poisons.

Calls come from members of the public as well as health care professionals from hospitals throughout Kentucky.

As the state's designated poison control center, our funding comes from a variety of sources:



BY THE NUMBERS 2016-2017

Calls from
**health care
professionals**
18,442




Calls from **the public**
79,658



9 out of 10 calls from
home are **managed at
home**



49%
of calls about
**children age 5
and younger**



Total calls answered:
98,100



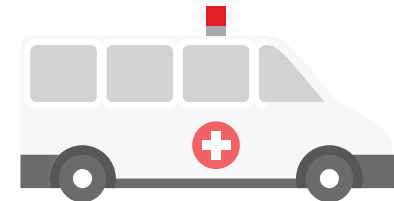
**Almost
5,000**
calls from people
**age 60
and older**



More than
3,000 calls
from **grandparents**

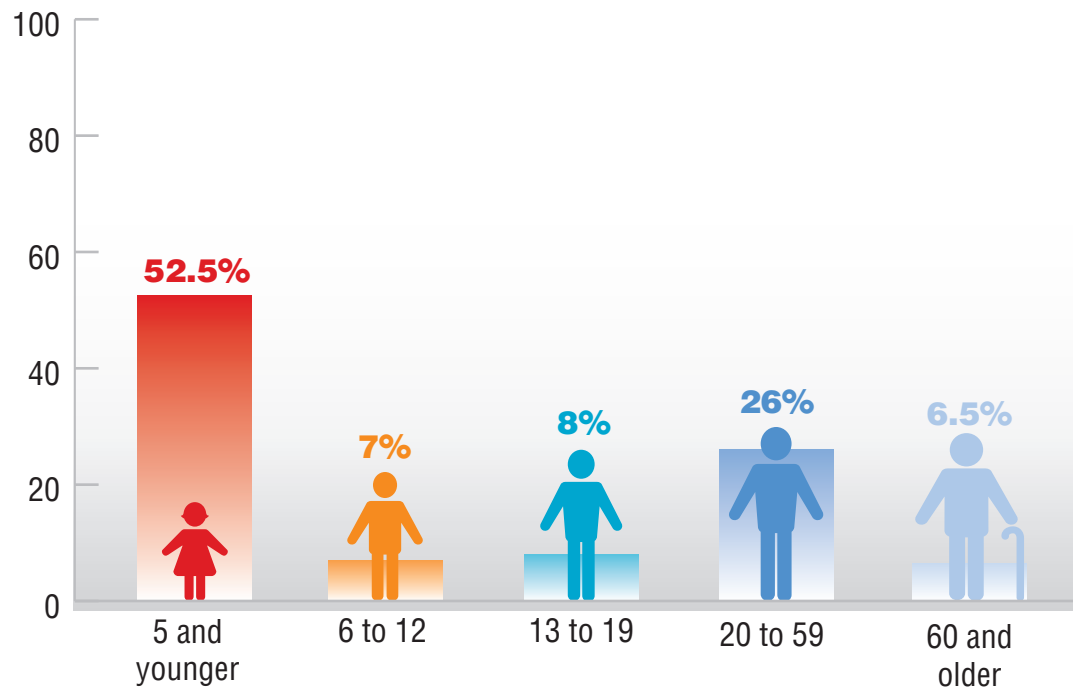


A **savings** in Kentucky of
more than \$20 million
by **preventing unnecessary
visits** to the emergency department



CALLS BY AGE

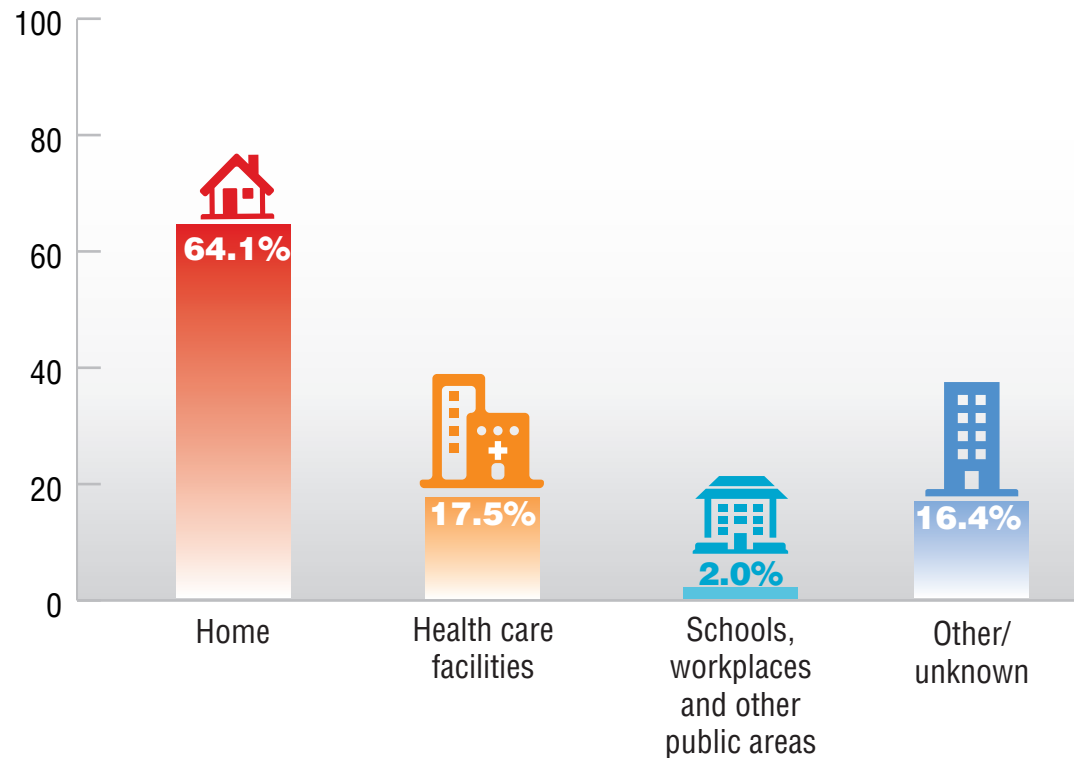
THE KENTUCKY POISON CONTROL CENTER answers calls about people of all ages. While many of our calls are about small children, plenty of adults call us as well.



HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

THE KENTUCKY POISON CONTROL CENTER is consulted by nurses and doctors from throughout the commonwealth. Health care providers rely on us to provide treatment advice about poisonings such as overdoses, new drugs of abuse or bites from venomous snakes.

The nurses who answer our phones have specialized training and national certification in poison information. There always is a board-certified toxicologist available on call to answer more complicated questions and consult directly with providers when requested.



MOST COMMON POISONS IN KENTUCKY



Top five nonpharmaceutical calls about adults

- Household cleaning products
- Pesticides
- Cosmetics and personal care products
- Venomous bites and stings
- Fumes/gases/vapors

Top five pharmaceutical calls about adults

- Medications are the No. 1 substance adults call about. We answer questions about accidental overdoses, medication mixups and interactions.
- Over-the-counter pain relievers
- Birth control
- Antidepressants
- Sedatives/hypnotics/antipsychotics
- Cardiovascular drugs

Top five poisons for kids

- Over-the-counter pain relievers
- Cosmetics and personal care products
- Household cleaning products
- Antihistamines

Foreign bodies

Every household in Kentucky contains potential poisons. Top tips to keep children safe from poisons:

- Store all potential poisons out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Put away medications and cleaners as soon as you're finished using them.
- Store all products in their original, labeled containers.
- Always read the label and use the appropriate dosing device when giving medications to children.

WAYS KENTUCKIANS ARE POISONED

Top five routes of exposure:

By mouth	63,184
Through the skin.....	6,290
Inhaled.....	4,181
In the eyes.....	3,029
Bite/sting.....	917

Reason for exposure

Unintentional.....	55,999
Intentional.....	14,825
Adverse reaction to drug.....	1,322
Unknown/other	1,051



PUBLIC EDUCATION

THE KENTUCKY POISON CONTROL CENTER provides education about poison prevention to members of the public as well as those who work with the public, such as health departments, teachers and medical professional students.

In 2016 and 2017, we distributed more than 100,000 pieces of poison prevention materials.

Tobacco and nicotine

Kentucky has one of the highest tobacco usage rates in the country. This means many households in the commonwealth contain some tobacco and nicotine products. This can be problematic, because nicotine is toxic when absorbed through the skin or swallowed.

We have produced a brochure and educational poster about the dangers of nicotine poisoning that has been distributed to health departments and pediatrician offices throughout Kentucky.

SENIOR MEDICATION SAFETY

THE MOST COMMON reasons for poisoning in older adults are related to medication use. Studies have shown that adults age 65 and older regularly take multiple medications. This means more opportunities for medication mistakes.

In 2016 we produced handouts and posters that were provided to every senior center in Kentucky. These materials had our top tips for senior medication safety, as well as information about how the poison control center can help manage medication mistakes.



ILLICIT DRUGS AND NEW DRUGS BEING ABUSED

AS KENTUCKY CONTINUES TO FACE one of the highest rates of opioid overdoses in the country, experts from the Kentucky Poison Control Center are working to help combat the problem.

We currently sit on the advisory board for Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER), the Kentucky prescription drug monitoring program. We also work closely with the state Department for Public Health and the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center to assist with overdose surveillance and detection of emerging illicit substances of abuse, including new fentanyl analog drugs created with a similar chemical structure.

Additionally, real-time surveillance identifies emerging trends in drug abuse and overdose. We provide compiled data (with identities removed) to local and state public health agencies to better track poison exposure outbreaks, identify communities at risk and target prevention strategies. We also provide continuing medical education on poison and drug overdose management for health care providers and first responders, including fire, police and EMS personnel.





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